

Congressman
J. Randy Forbes
Fourth District of Virginia



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Christine Shott

(202) 225-6365

November 18, 2003

Forbes announces \$100,000 for dredging of Tyler's Beach
House passes 2004 Energy & Water Appropriations Conference Report

Washington, D.C. – Congressman J. Randy Forbes (VA-04) announced that Isle of Wight County would receive **\$100,000** in federal funding for dredging of Tyler's Beach as part of the 2004 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Conference Report passed by the House of Representatives today.

Established in 1968, the Tyler's Beach Boat Harbor and Channel is a federally authorized project in the Norfolk District's Operations and Maintenance program. Located on the west side of the James River, the beach has continued to silt-in to the extent that it can be navigated only during high tides. The Army Corps of Engineers completed a Reconnaissance Report on Economic Feasibility of Maintenance Dredging in September 2002, which confirms that the continued maintenance of the project is economically justified. The appropriation of \$100,000 will help to continue the design and construction of an pland spoil site.

"The use of the Tyler's Beach navigation channel is critical to ensure the economic vitality and stability of the local fishermen, who are in jeopardy of losing access to the James River's commercial fishing industry," Forbes said.

W. Douglas Caskey, Isle of Wight County Administrator, commented, "Funding for Tyler's Beach Federal Navigation Project is critical to the future operation of the Tyler's Beach Boat Harbor and Channel, and the livelihood of those who utilize it. Isle of Wight County extends its gratitude to Congressman Randy Forbes for his vital role in securing federal funding for this significant and timely project."

"Funding for this project is wonderful news for Isle of Wight and for the entire Fourth District of Virginia, especially during the tough times we are in as a nation and amidst tight budgetary constraints across the Commonwealth," Forbes said.